



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013
TRIBAL AC – TRIBAL WATER SUMMIT PLANNING MEETING
9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
CCP LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, 815 S STREET SACRAMENTO, CA

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

1. Review and develop draft TWS agenda.
2. Initial discussions on TWS theme areas and Design Teams.
3. Update on final invitations.

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Welcome and Introductions

Stephanie Lucero, Tribal facilitator, reviewed the agenda for the day. After an opening prayer, introductions were made around the room and on the phone.

TWS Design Teams

Design Teams are needed for each of the three Summit themes (TEK, Watershed Management and Land Use, and Indigenous Rights and Water. Composition will include both agencies and Tribal representatives. TWS Planning Team members were asked to identify potential agency representatives for the three theme areas. It will be important to bring in agency members who have good relations with Tribes and have the backing of management. Suggestions included the following:

- Mitch Wilkinson, from Shasta-Trinity National Forest: He was described as very innovative.
- Agency perspectives, ideas and interactions are needed.
- Ron Goode has been working with an excellent DFG staff member who knows fire, land issues, watershed.



- Atta Stevenson and Julie Griffith-Flatter will look to identify representatives from CalFIRE.
- Reach out to: Don Hankins, Frank Lake, Scott Morgan and Martha Guzman.
- Atta and Randy will research State Parks representative. This is connected to the cultural implications of parks for Tribes.
- Olin Jones at the Attorney General's office needs to be involved.
- Invite USGS – they are involved with the sustainability of water in the US. USGS had a presentation – showing Sierra runoff that goes to LA over the last 4 years.
- Other Federal agencies to involve:
 - Corps of Engineers
 - DOD
 - BOR
 - USGS
 - NOAA/National Weather Service
 - NPS
 - IHS
 - EPA
 - UFSWS
 - Native American FWS
- Comment: Non-federally recognized Tribes need to be acknowledged by Federal agencies. Include regional representatives.
- Many Federal agency hydrologists sit on the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.

Tribal Liaisons

- The agency Tribal liaisons need to be contacted.
- There are a surprising number of Tribal liaisons: Public Health, Energy Commission, Attorney General's office, State library, CalEPA, CalTrans. Many of them meet informally on a bi-weekly basis.
- ACTION ITEM: Kimberly and Judie will work on a list of Tribal liaisons, contact info and job descriptions.

Tribal Ecological Knowledge

Discussion regarding the theme of "Tribal Ecological Knowledge" included the following:

- DWR activities impact land and counties. There needs to be policy for incorporating TEK into land use decisions. The Water Plan does not include TEK or counties. That's where impacts occur. Land uses, even 20 miles from water bodies, have impacts. Agencies need to work with directly with Tribes rather than through high-end contractors. Tribal members developed a plan to protect burials on the river, which was presented to the City



of Sacramento. The plan included native plants and habitat, to prevent erosion and help buildup sediment. SAFCA and the Corp are now using this. There is a lot of good work, which needs to be heard. DWR needs some awareness as well.

- There are a lot of bad past experiences with agencies who do not respect TEK. Examples can be provided. Governor Brown has made good appointments – there are still challenges with middle management.

Climate Change

- On climate change issues, indigenous knowledge is often ahead of the scientific community. Native Tribes in Alaska were aware of changes early on. There was a climate change conference in Redding, in 2009, and Tribal reports of changes that were confirmed.
- In Alaska, Irving Kava is working with Siberia and creating an international network.
- Climate change subject matter experts talk about uncertainty and adaptation. It involves local conditions. This is a good place to bring in DWR and California examples.
- There are efforts with the governor regarding ocean wellness. They talk about scientific knowledge of sea-level rise. Tribes have never been incorporated, nor our awareness of destruction of habitat over the last 50 years. Climate change could involve a white paper: Look at 3-4 communities at present from own perspective what we see as climate change issues. Describe what Tribes have had to adapt to. Tribal partnerships are needed. What could Tribes do if we had the resources? One you walk away from your land, you're lost. We have to speak for climate change.

Watershed Management and Land Use

Watershed management and traditional practices incorporate using TEK. This is where projects and management approaches come in. TEK is based on philosophy, and practice is based on knowledge. Practice is applied philosophy. The following comments were made:

- Looked at the Forest Management RMS sends a mixed message. It discusses the thinning of forests and sending more water downstream. Thinning is needed to prevent catastrophic fire. Major flooding occurs with rain on snow on denuded hillsides.
- More local maps are needed. Meadow restoration RMS was added the Water Plan.
- The closure of State parks has devastating cultural impacts to Tribes. Leaders haven't heard from Tribes how they will be affected by closures or how Tribes depend on access to ocean.
- The discussion of Tribal lands, public lands and private lands need to show how Tribal lands and practices positively affect public and private lands and how public and private lands affect Tribal lands and practices.



Traditional Burns

There was a recent prescribed fire conference. State agency members were present. The Air Board said smoke is bad, but fire might be alright. In 2008, the fires in the valley slowed sudden death oak syndrome and the spread of mistletoe. Only 2% of California burned in 2008, Tribes used to burn 6% on an annual basis. That's a lot of smoke and fire. Look at the condition of the resources then. Smoke needs to be in the picture. Fire is needed for acorns. There is technology that can help clear out the smoke, which only needs to be on the vegetation for 3-5 days. On the whole, nobody gets it. In Australia, they say healthy land and healthy people.

Public Land Sales

- Tribes need to have input on real estate transfers that move public land into private ownership. This is especially true on Federal land transfers, such as those involving Westlands. Lands should be offered to Tribes first.

Indigenous Rights to Water

The issues associated with indigenous rights to water will be mapped out for discussion at the next TWS planning team meeting. The map will be based on concepts discussed at the July 12th Tribal AC meeting.

Media

Media outreach was discussed. It is important to bring focus into the pre-work and start drafting a 1-2 page concept outline for each theme and send it out as a news release. This should be sent to Indian Country and into journals – whose readership includes those who are not aware of Tribal issues.

Formal Invitations

Formal invitations need to be finalized by the end of August and include a draft agenda. Leaders will want to know what the content is.

- It was suggested that the Secretary of Interior be invited, as well as the head of BIA.
- For Federal agencies, consider inviting the Regional Directors, Superintendents and natural resource offices.
- A comment was made that getting Federal representatives will encourage participation by the Governor. The Governor's participation will encourage that of Cabinet members.
- Beyond the Water Plan and TWS, there is much to do to educate the State. There will be other efforts and activities that precede or follow the Summit.
- There was a suggestion to invite the leadership from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and League of Cities (LCC). Another participant observed that if the goal is to get the State to set policy and work better with Tribes, then policy makers need



to be present – which will not be the counties. The Tribal Chairs are powerful when they are all together.

- Be mindful that this will follow fall elections. Consider inviting key players from legislature.

Next Steps

- ACTION ITEM: Kimberly and Judie will work on a list of Tribal liaisons, contact info and job descriptions.
- ACTION ITEM: resend link to RMS drafts.
- ACTION ITEM: Atta to send link on Marine resources.
- ACTION ITEM: Atta Stevenson and Julie Griffith-Flatter will look to identify representatives from CalFIRE (for Design Teams).
- ACTION ITEM: Atta Stevenson and Randy Yonemura will look to identify representatives from State Parks (for Design Teams).

Attendance

Paula Britton, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake

Rob Cozens, Resighini Rancheria

Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe

Julie Griffith-Flatter, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Roselynn Lwenya, Buena Vista Rancheria Me-Wuk Indians of California

Christina Mokhtarzadeh, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Frank Ramirez,

Atta Stevenson, California Indian Water Commission

Randy Yonemura, California Indian Water Commission

Emily Alejandrino, DWR Tribal Coordinator Work Team Lead

Kimberley Johnston-Dodds, DWR Tribal Liaison

Tim Nelson, DWR, North-Central Office

Via Webinar

John Corbett, Yurok Tribe

Ruthie Maloney, Yurok Tribe

Oscar Serrano, Colusa Indian Community

Facilitation Team: Stephanie Lucero, Tribal Facilitator; Judie Talbot, facilitation support; Center for Collaborative Policy, CSU Sacramento